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English 11E

**Dialects and Local Colors**

**Review Questions Answer Sheet**

**Short Answer Questions:**

**1. Do you think using or speaking Twainism is a more efficient and affective way of communication?**

People speaking and using Twainism was not a very efficient way of communicating because there could have been cases where one couldn’t understand another. At that time, Twainism was mostly used by people who were uneducated, and it made sense that they spoke in a slightly different language.

**2. How do you think the fact that Huck does not believe in God affect his character in the novel?**

I believe that the fact that Huck doesn’t believe in God makes him a more brave and courageous character in the novel. He is not a character that becomes dependent on the actions he takes due to God, but decides to take action depending on his morals. This makes him an even more interesting character to investigate. Also, he isn’t a character that is predictable, rather he can’t be predicted because he doesn’t believe in God and follow God’s morals.

**3. How do you think the plot would have been affected if Jim were not superstitious?**

The plot would have changed in a very obvious way if Jim were not superstitious. The superstition mentioned inside the novel is new to the readers, and had never really been mentioned in today’s life. Thus, it was not obvious with what will happen next. Some of the happenings in this novel are unpredictable and thus made the novel even more fun. The plot would have been mild, and not much climax would have been happening in each chapter if superstition did not exist in Jim.

**4. If Twain believed slavery was acceptable, then how do you think the characters would have changed?**

If Twain believed slavery was acceptable, then the characters wouldn’t have been the same as they are now in the novel. In the present-day novel, the characters are very free, especially Jim. It would have been impossible for a slave to travel around with a white boy, since the slave would have been taken away. However, if Twain believed that slavery was acceptable, then Jim wouldn’t have been able to come almost to the middle of the plot lime. Rather, he wouldn’t even have been mentioned in the story line. Thus, Jim wouldn’t have been able to become a big part, or a major character, in the novel.

**5. What type of effect do you think education had on the dialects of different people during this time?**

Jim and Huck are a very good example for the after-effects of education. If we compare the dialect with Jim and Huck, it is easier to understand the way Huck speaks, rather than the way Jim speaks. Huck uses dialects that are more modernized, and which represents that he had received education. On the other hand, Jim’s way of talking seems to lack the formation of subject and a verb, and is very hard to understand. Thus, Jim represents the people who didn’t receive education. The effect that might have had with receiving education or not is the way of understanding one another.

**QUOTES:**

**1. Analyze this quote, and also refer to Jim's characteristics.**

*“Tom said he slipped Jim's hat off of his head and hung it on a limb right over him, and Jim stirred a little, but he didn't wake. Afterwards Jim said the witches bewitched him and put him in a trance, and rode him all over the State, and then set him under the trees again, and hung his hat on a limb to show who done it. And next time Jim told it he said they rode him down to New Orleans; and, after that, every time he told it he spread it more and more, till by and by he said they rode him all over the world, and tired him most to death, and his back was all over saddle-boils." (pg. 4-5)*

This helps the readers analyze more about Jim’s characteristics. In the beginning of the novel, Twain shows clearly, Jim’s superstitious mind, for example the devil and the trance. Although all the readers know that no witch has come to Jim, he acted as if he had seen them, and made contact with them. This shows that Jim’s characteristics are strongly related with imagination and superstiton, which is a contrast with Huck’s.

**2. Analyze this quote**

*“He had the whitest shirt on you ever see, too, and the shiniest hat; and there ain't a man in that town that's got as fine clothes as what he had; and he had a gold watch and chain, and a silver-headed cane -- the awfulest old gray-headed nabob in the State. And what do you think? They said he was a p'fessor in a college, and could talk all kinds of languages, and knowed everything. And that ain't the wust. They said he could VOTE when he was at home. Well, that let me out. Thinks I, what is the country a-coming to? It was 'lection day, and I was just about to go and vote myself if I warn't too drunk to get there; but when they told me there was a State in this country where they'd let that nigger vote, I drawed out.” (pg. 20)*

This quote is said by Pap, when he is mocking the government. Pap, a character that didn’t receive much education, shows the Twainism words that we learned in the presentation. We can see in this dialect that people who didn’t receive education have more opinions and thoughts, and are not always stupid. We can also notice that when Pap talks, he seems to talk in the third-person, such as “Think I…”

**3. Analyze the following dialect**

Page 50, Chapter 12

*"Le's land on her, Jim."*

*But Jim was dead against it at first. He says:*

*"I doan' want to go fool'n 'long er no wrack. We's doin' blame' well, en we better let blame' well alone, as de good book says. Like as not dey's a watchman on dat wrack."*

*"Watchman your grandmother," I says; "there ain't nothing to watch but the texas and the ; and do you reckon anybody's going to resk his life for a texas and a pilot-house such a night as this, when it's likely to break up and wash off down the river any minute?"*

We can infer by reading this dialect that Jim has a characteristic that is afraid with a lot of things, and don’t take advantage of any sort of situation. The way he talks is similar to Pap, but makes more common sense to the readers. He uses much of the Twainism, such as “ain’t,” “a” and many more. This portrays a lot about the local color back then, where many who were uneducated at that time, spoke with a different accent.

**4. Analyze the dialect with Huck and his Pap**

Page 14, Chapter 5

*"Don't you give me none o' your lip," says he. "You've put on considerable many frills since I been away. I'll take you down a peg before I get done with you. You're educated, too, they say—can read and write. You think you're better'n your father, now, don't you, because he can't? I'LL take it out of you. Who told you you might meddle with such hifalut'n foolishness, hey?—who told you you could?"*

*"The widow. She told me."*

*"The widow, hey?—and who told the widow she could put in her shovel about a thing that ain't none of her business?"*

*"Nobody never told her."*

By reading this dialect, readers can detect that there is a difference with Huck talking and Pap talking. One major difference is the use of grammar and Twainism. While Pap was uneducated, Huck was educated, and shows in this dialect the difference between the two of them. Also, this shows that the uneducated people then, did not like the ones who were educated because it seemed that people looked down on them.

**5. Analyze the following dialect between Judge Thatcher and Huck**

Page 12, Chapter 4

*No, sir," I says, "I don't want to spend it. I don't want it at all -- nor the six thousand, nuther. I want you to take it; I want to give it to you -- the six thousand and all."*

*He looked surprised. He couldn't seem to make it out. He says:*

*"Why, what can you mean, my boy?"*

*I says, "Don't you ask me no questions about it, please. You'll take it -- won't you?"*

*He says:*

*"Well, I'm puzzled. Is something the matter?"*

*"Please take it," says I, "and don't ask me nothing -- then I won't have to tell no lies."*

*He studied a while, and then he says:*

*"Oho-o! I think I see. You want to SELL all your property to me -- not give it. That's the correct idea."*

*Then he wrote something on a paper and read it over, and says:*

*"There; you see it says 'for a consideration.' That means I have bought it of you and paid you for it. Here's a dollar for you. Now you sign it."*

This is a conversation between two educated characters. It rather portrays a different mood and setting compared to other conversations. When both of the educated characters talk, everything makes more sense, and creates a thought to the readers that educated people hung out with the ones similar to them. This was because it made more sense when they spoke to each other, unlike the conversation that happened with the ones educated and uneducated.

**Factual Questions:**

True/False

1. Not many people decided to live in a realism world. **(False, many decided to live in a realism world)**

2. The local colour around Huck was different from his characteristic and way of life. **(True)**

3. The way people spoke with Southern-American accents altered only in the way of speaking. **(False, altered in the way of speaking and also vocabulary)**

Multiple Choice

4. Which of the following is not a Twainism translation?

a. Adding “some” at the end of the words.

b. Using “ain’t”

**c. Adding “ye” for you.**

d. Adding “of” instead of “a.”

5. Who is a realist in the novel, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn?

a. Tom Sawyer

b. Jim

c. Pap

**d. Huck**

Fill In the Blank

6. Realism ties in well with the local color.

7. People didn’t decide their problems based on emotion, beliefs, morals, and religion.

8. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn often makes relation to the Mississippi River.

9. The accent or pronunciation of words according to the place that the person speaking lives in is a dialect.

10. There are various derivative of the “Pike County” dialect.